

4. The cited references are not reasonably combined, and the Examiner has not cited a motivation for one skilled in the art of electronic catalogs to consider Wical, Suzuki, or the combination of Wical and Suzuki.

Wical teaches a bookshelf system for a plurality of documents

Wical teaches a bookshelf system for browsing information associated with "a plurality of documents" such as "books, magazines, journals, etc."

"A virtual bookshelf system provides a user a way to browse and locate information associated with a plurality of documents." [Wycal Abstract]

"A general purpose search and retrieval system includes a database or repository of source information. For example, the repository may include documents, such as books, magazines, journals, etc." [Wycal col 1, lines 23-27]

Claims 1 and 45 are for a tab structure for accessing information from a single document such as an electronic catalog, and that tab structure is substantially different from Wical.

The current invention provides a convenient and efficient way for a user to find and review pages of an electronic catalog. In the current invention, tiers of tabs are maintained on a display screen so that the user may select a particular page, in a manner similar to a catalog index. For instance, a category of items may be easily selected alphabetically, and catalog pages associated with the category may be directly accessed from the display. The user may then select other catalog pages or other categories without the typical multiple-screen drill down navigation of systems such as taught by Wical. A typical implementation of the current invention is three tiers of tabs- an alphabetic tier, a category tier, and a page tier. These tiers may remain on the display so that the user may make subsequent selections.

By contrast, Wical teaches an extensive drill down approach to locating information from a plurality of documents such as "books, magazines, journals, etc." [Wical Abstract]. Wical's FIG. 2f shows an example with 7 levels of

categories and subcategories. After Wical's user has navigated these 7 levels, through multiple computer display screens, the user still has to take an additional step to access a particular page or pages of desired information. The appearance and function of Wical are substantially different from the current invention. Part of this difference relates to the tasks. Wical does not display both complicated navigational history information and ultimate page content on a single display. Wical uses multiple steps of contract and expand buttons to accomplish navigation.

Suzuki teaches inserting icons into musical score

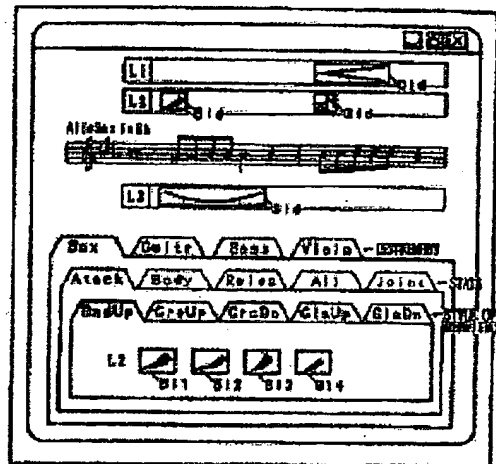


FIG. 4

The top portion of FIG. 4 of Suzuki shows layers related to a musical score. The bottom section shows representative icons which can be inserted into the layers.

"Further, of the style-of-rendition icon windows in the lower half of the displayed screen, the outermost window includes tabs representing various types of musical instruments such as "saxophone (Sax)", "guitar (Guitr)", "bass" and "violin (Violn)", and any one of these musical instrument types can be selected by clicking on the corresponding tab. The displayed screen example of FIG. 4 shows that "saxophone" (abbreviated "Sax") is being currently selected. The middle or second window includes tabs representing various articulation states such as "attack (Attack)", "body", "release (Reles)", "all" and "joint", and any one of these articulation states can be selected by clicking on the corresponding tab. The displayed screen example of FIG. 4 shows that the "attack" (Attack) state is being currently selected.

Further, the third or innermost window includes tabs representing various styles of rendition such as "bend-up (BndUp)", "grace-tone-up (GrcUp)", "grace-tone-down (GrcDn)", "glissando-up (GlsUp)" and "glissando-down (GlsDn)", and any one of the styles of rendition can be selected by clicking on the corresponding tab." (Suzuki at col 9 lines 9-29)

There is no motivation to combine Suzuki with Wical

There is no motivation of one skilled in the art of electronic catalogs to combine Suzuki's musical notation patent with Wical's bookshelf patent.

5. Wical teaches away from the current invention.

Wical appears to teach a hierarchical drill down rather than a tab display.

Wical teaches the display of an icon 200 and category name display box 210. The present invention claims a tabular display. The tabs of the current invention may be displayed in horizontal rows, vertical columns, or both. Wical does not teach a horizontal display orientation, and such an orientation would be impractical given the length of text description in Wical's display boxes. Wical does not teach a close format display, such as in the current invention when tabs are arranged in a row.

"Each top category contains an icon, such as the icon for the "science, technology, and education" labeled 200 on FIG. 2a, that graphically represents the respective category. In a preferred embodiment, each category name is displayed in a box, such as box 210 for "science, technology, and education", for selection by a user." [Wycal col 10, lines 24-29]

Wical teaches that the hierarchical structures are dynamically created.

In the present invention electronic catalog embodiment, the products and the product classifications are known, and it is not necessary to create the tabs dynamically.

"As discussed above, the hierarchical structures are dynamically created from the inner play of the topic table 165 and the index/topic table 185 (FIG. 1). For the example display shown in FIG. 2d, the "computer hardware industry" and the "computer software industry" categories are part of the basic structures stored in the topic table 165. The "International Business Machines Corporation" category is an index head that is cross referenced to the topic "computer industry" in the index/topic table 185. In the next lower level under the "computer software industry" category, "databases and spreadsheets", "document management and work flow software", and "operating systems" are part of the basic structure stored in the topic table 165. The categories "Microsoft" and "Oracle Systems Corporation" are index heads from the index table 170, and are cross referenced to the topic "computer software industry" in the index/topic table 185." [Wycal col 12, line 60 – col 13, line 1]

**§103 Rejection – Wical (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,410), Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,798,427) and Wittenburg (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,656)**

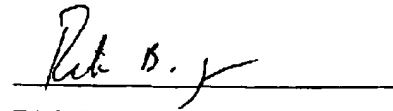
14. Applicant respectfully traverses the §103 rejection of claims 17 and 41 based on Wical, Suzuki, and Wittenburg .
15. The references of Wical, Suzuki, and Wittenburg are not reasonably combined to form an obviousness rejection for the electronic catalog claims of the current invention. Wical teaches a bookshelf system for browsing information, while Wittenburg teaches a multimedia presentation such as online shopping, and Suzuki teaches a musical notation method. There is no motivation to combine these references.

**§103 Rejection – Wical (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,410), Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,798,427) and Bodnar (U.S. Patent Application 2001/0000668)**

16. Applicant respectfully traverses the §103 rejection of claims 27-31 based on Wical, Suzuki, and Bodnar.
  17. The references of Wical and Bodnar are not reasonably combined to form an obviousness rejection for claims 27-31. Wical teaches a bookshelf system for browsing information; Bodnar teaches a portable computing device with about 7 lines of display; and Suzuki teaches a musical notation method. There is no motivation to combine these references to form a rejection of Claims 27-31 relating to a method for presenting an electronic office products catalog.
  18. Applicant urges that all claims are now in condition for allowance.
  19. Thank you for your continued assistance in this application.
- Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 3, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick B. Yeager", is written over a horizontal line.

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